Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 11121 200145Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12
NEA-10 HA-05 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-20 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 JUSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-07 OES-09 CEQ-01 /218 W
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC GENERAL DEBATE

1. SUMMER ECOSOC GENERAL DEBATE ENDED JULY 14 WITH SPEECHES BY SPAIN, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, ALGERIA AND MONGOLIA.

2. SPANISH OBSERVER (MESTRE) NOTED THAT THE 1974 ECONOMIC CRISIS WAS PARTICULARLY HARD ON SEMIDEVELOPED NATIONS SUCH AS SPAIN, AND STILL IS. HOWEVER, SPAIN CAN ALSO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF HER RELATIONS WITH ARA AND NEA NATIONS. THE ARTIFICIAL DIVISION OF THE WORLD'S NATIONS INTO DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING CATEGORIES HAS IMPEDED INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BECAUSE THIS THOUGHTLESS CATEGORIZATION DOES NOT SQUARE WITH INDIVIDUAL VARIATIONS. SPAIN PRESSES FOR CONSIDERATION OF KEY ISSUES: (A) GENERAL COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN OPEN AND COMPETITIVE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM; (B) SPAIN WILL REQUEST SIZEABLE TARIFF REDUC-
TIONS AT GATT. DEVELOPING NATIONS NEED SPECIAL CONSIDERA-
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 11121 200145Z

TION AND HELP; (C) IMPROVED TRANSFER OF RESOURCES, ESPECIALLY OFFICIAL AID. ALL OF THESE MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED WHILE MAINTAINING STABILITY IN THE INTER-
NATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM. SPAIN SUPPORTS COW, EVEN THOUGH ITS INITIAL EFFORTS WERE DISAPPOINTING BECAUSE IT WAS A TIME WHEN NEW MACHINERY WAS FIRST BEING IMPLEMENTED. THERE IS A NEED TO ACHIEVE REAL EFFICIENCY

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

OF THE UN AND ECOSOC THROUGH RESTRUCTURING.

3. SYRIAN REP (EL FATTAL) STRESSED INTERDEPENDENCE, WHICH IS FINALLY BEING RECOGNIZED, WHEN NOT TOO LONG AGO NORTH-SOUTH PROBLEMS WERE DISMISSED AS EVIDENCE OF THE CYCLICAL NATURE OF ECONOMICS. RESTRUCTURING MUST BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR, NOT MERELY MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO. MOST DEVELOPING STATES SHARE JAMAICA'S VIEW OF INTERDEPENDENCE. TORN BETWEEN PAST DISAPPOINTMENTS AND FUTURE OPTIMISM WE MUST FREE STALLED NEGOTIATIONS ON MTN, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, ETC IN DEVELOPING IDS. INDIA'S SUGGESTED APPROACH BEARS MERIT. NORTH-SOUTH NEGOTIATIONS MUST CONTINUE WITHIN THE UN. COW HAS A FOCAL ROLE DESPITE PAST SETBACKS AND CURRENT PROCEDURAL DISAGREEMENTS. THE COW ROLE MUST BE ENHANCED BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY UN BODY WHERE NORTH-SOUTH TALKS CAN BE CARRIED OUT THROUGH ECOSOC DURING THE NEXT DEVELOPMENT DECADE. SYRIA THEREFORE STRONGLY SUPPORTS UNGA RESOLUTION 32/197. SYRIA IS ALSO HAPPY THAT WORK ON RESTRUCTURING HAS ALREADY BEGUN. EL FATTAL ALSO NOTED THAT SUCCESS ON ICA NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE A MAJOR TEST OF THE WILL OF DEVELOPED STATES AND THEIR ATTITUDE ON NORTH-SOUTH DIALOG. DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM THAT WILL IN ITS NATURAL OPERATION DIRECT RESOURCES IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS ODAS IS THE CRUCIAL CHALLENGE IN TRANSFER OF RESOURCES. EL FATTAL ENDED WITH BRIEF AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 11121 200145Z

NEGATIVE COMMENTS ON THE ECONOMIC MOTIVES OF APARTHEID AND ZIONISM, BUT DID NOT MENTION ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS.

4. IN LONGEST SPEECH OF GENERAL DEBATE ALGERIAN REP (JAZAIRY) INTERLACED HARD LINE DEVELOPING COUNTRY RHETORIC WITH SEVERAL IDEAS WORTHY OF NOTE. HE CHARGED THAT FREE MARKET DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE TRYING TO PROTECT THEIR POSITION IN THE ECONOMIC WORLD. BUT THEIR SOLUTIONS TO ECONOMIC CRISES TEND TO CONTRACT WORLD TRADE. HE PROPOSED THE WORLD SHOULD STIMULATE DEMAND IN LDCS WITHOUT SPURRING INFLATION, AND GIVE SPECIAL HELP TO LDC ECONOMIES. THE NEED IS TO STABILIZE PRICES, NOT EXPORT RECEIPTS. HE ALSO CHARGED THAT DESPITE HIGH LEVEL PRONOUNCEMENTS SUPPORTING ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN PRINCIPLE, A GROUP OF NATIONS CONTINUE TO OPPOSE CREATION OF THE COMMON FUND, BUT NOTED THAT SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE EXPRESSED READINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN IT. ALL GOVERNMENTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THAT FUND, SUBMERGING THEIR PAROCHIAL SELF-INTEREST. HE NOTED THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CHARACTERIZE PRICES OF LDC GOODS AS "TOO HIGH" IF THEY ARE RAW MATERIALS AND "TOO LOW" IF THEY ARE MANUFACTURED GOODS. THIS

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

SHOWS THE UNEQUAL CHARACTER OF TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ON TNCS, HE STATED THAT THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE TNC CODE OF CONDUCT IS STILL IMPRECISE. THIS QUESTION CONSTITUTES ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION. BHN AND ECONOMIC GROWTH ARE POLICIES THAT SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY. FINAL PORTION OF JAZAIRY'S SPEECH DEVOTED TO COW. THIS WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTEL.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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20 Mar 2014
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